

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 07676 120611Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3308

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7676

EXDIS

DEPTO 39

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON OAS

SUBJECT: MEETING OF "ABSTENTIONIST" FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. AT 9:30 P.M. THIS EVENING QTE ABSTENTIONIST UNQTE HEADS OF DELEGATION (BRAZIL, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, BOLIVIA, HAITI, AND THE UNITED STATES) GATHERED INFORMALLY TO STUDY TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION SENT QUITO 7673, DEPTO 31.

2. WE LISTENED BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE DRAFT. ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES, ACTING AS NEUTRAL GO-BETWEEN, CHAIRED MEETING. LUCIO PAREDES SAID PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO COME UP WITH DRAFT AND FLOAT IT INFORMALLY LATER IN THE EVENING WITH CO-SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION TO LIFT SANCTIONS, TO SEE IF THEY MIGHT ACCEPT IT. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE AN OPEN FLOOR FIGHT TOMORROW. HE NOTED THAT THE CO-SPONSORS WERE ALSO REFINING THEIR DRAFT TO TRY TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A FORMULA COULD BE REACHED THAT WOULD UNITE THE NATIONS WHO FAVOR LIFTING SANCTIONS AND THE SIX ABSTENTIONIST COUNTRIES.

3. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE MODALITIES OF THE SEVEN MEMBER COMMISSION BUT THE DRAFT WAS LEFT INTACT WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THOSE WHO HAD PROPOSED THE IDEA OF LEAVING OPEN THE 15TH MFM MIGHT SUGGEST IN ANY DISCUSSION THE FORMATION OF THE SEVEN MEMBER COMMISSION BE ENTRUSTED TO THE OAS PERMANENT  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 07676 120611Z

COUNCIL. THE GUATEMALANS SUGGESTED THAT THE TUDY COMMITTEE

COULD BE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE ABSTENTIONIST GROUP, THREE FROM THE CO-SPONSORS AND ONE AMONG THOSE WHO WERE FLATLY OPPOSED TO LIFTING SANCTIONS. THIS PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION (AND HARDLY APPEARS TO BE AN EQUITABLE RATIO IN VIEW OF THE PREPONDERANCE OF COUNTRIES FAVORING LIFTING SANCTIONS). IN ANY EVENT, ALL THIS WAS LEFT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. AS LUCIO PAREDES POINTED OUT, THE ISSUE WAS NOT THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE BUT WHETHER THE MAJORITY WOULD ACCEPT THE IDEA OF LEAVING OPEN THE MEETING. BOTH HE AND NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL INDICATED THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE CO-SPONSORS TO ACCEPT SUCH A FORMULA. LUCIO PAREDES HELD FORTH THE PROSPECT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPS BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN JUST HOW TO SQUARE THE CIRCLE.

4. BRAZIL'S SILVEIRA MADE A POINT OF STRESSING HIS COUNTRY'S CONCERN FOR ECUADOR, AS THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD TAKEN ON THE THANKLESS TASK OF HOSTING THE 15TH MFM AND SAID THAT THIS WAS A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE EFFORT TO COME UP WITH SOME FORMULA THAT MIGHT TIDE OVER MATTERS (I.E., BY "LEAVING OPEN" THE 15TH MFM).

5. COMMENT: ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, BUT WE DON'T SEE MUCH CHANCE OF THE CO-SPONSORS ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL TO LEAVE OPEN THE 15TH MFM WITHOUT A VOTE ON THE ISSUE OF LIFTING SANCTIONS. THEY HAVE TWELVE VOTES AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY INSIST ON A VOTE ON THEIR RESOLUTION IF NO COMPROMISE EMERGES THAT EMBODIES AT LEAST THE CONCEPT OF FREEING NATIONS TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA IF THEY WISH.  
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